

TWO OPEN LETTERS

Dear Bank of Amerika:

I saw your full-page-ad in the NY Times a few weeks ago. The ad condemned violent dissent, especially the street action which resulted in the burning of one of your branches in Isla Vista, California. Aggressive violence, we'll all agree, is deplorable. The use of defensive force, on the other hand, is justified (and perhaps necessary) against aggression.

Who initiated the violence in Isla Vista: the people in the streets or you and your state? Whose army occupies America: an army of radicals or the US Army? Who plunders the people with \$300,000,000,000.00 in taxes? Who monopolizes private property with its nationalized banking system and nationalized economy? Who drafts us? Who makes war against the entire world? You, your Amerikan Empire and all states.

You and your kind of predators have been rioting for thousands of years; now the people are defending themselves in the streets and you condemn violence! LISTEN: the violence you fear is the just response to your system's violence; the burning which terrifies you is only your napalm's reflection.

Some may think that you, Ronnie and your gestapo can stop the people in the streets. You can't. They lit the Revolution's first signal-fire in Isla Vista; the people will be lighting many more.

Ralph Fucetola III

Listen SIL:

Last October, the Society for Individual Liberty was formed by the merger of Objectivists and YAF libertarians. Since that time your organization has grown to over 3,000 members, making it the largest libertarian organization in Amerika. Yet despite this asset, SIL is nothing more than a copper dollar sign, totally irrelevant to the Movement. While 250,000 people were marching in Washington demanding an end to US imperialism and an end to the coercive draft, SIL was holding a conference in Philadelphia which included the discussion of libertarian tactics. And when Bobby Seale was thrown in prison for two years for demanding the right to defend himself, SIL members were "in the streets" demanding the release of somebody named John Galt.

You are now holding another conference, I only hope that finally you will emerge from the pages of Atlas Shrugged and join the Movement because the Revolution is going on NOW... FOR BETTER OR WORSE. And if you libertarians just stand by and watch while the new left and radical libertarians get crushed, how long do you think it will be before the local gestapo comes knocking at your door?

Your comrade
John Brotschol

do something illegal today

The free market has long been considered at best as irrelevant to problems besetting a modern economy and at worst a throw-back to an uncivilized, dog-eat-dog jungle. Economic interventionism, on the other hand, has been considered the epitome of up-to-dateness, of civility, of social justice. This anti-free market bias pervades all of the usual political/economic subdivisions: conservatives as well as liberals, Republicans as well as Democrats.

Confronting such well-recieved doctrine will seem naive to some and lunacy to others. Yet there is a crying need for such a confrontation, for the tragic truth of the matter is that government interference with the economy is responsible for virtually every single social ill that plagues our society.

In forthcoming issues of *THE ABOLITIONIST*, I shall endeavor to defend this rather challenging claim. I shall do so by considering many diverse problems including drug addiction; the astronomical unemployment rates of black youth; and the housing crisis in New York City. I shall demonstrate that it is always the relevant governmental legislation that is the cause of the problem and that only the repeal of the enactment in question will solve the problem.

Let us now consider in some detail just what is this free market system, for it is with this free market system that we shall be contrasting the present interventionist 'mixed' economy as we deal with each social ill.

The basis of the free market system is that an individual's person & property shall be sacrosanct from the initiation or the threat of violence. How do private property rights arise in the free market? They arise in three possible ways:

(1) the individual mixes his labor with hitherto unowned property, i.e., he homesteads a piece of wilderness and thus comes to own the farm; (2) he receives something as a gift that is itself properly owned; or (3) he trades some property he has come by thru one of these 3 methods for the legitimate property of another.

There are two important corollaries. The individual must always be free to engage in each of these three activities, if he is not, his private property rights are abridged. If strictly carried out, this would mean that individuals would be free to homestead anything: land, lakes, rivers, ocean areas and television airwaves (I shall later point out that government restrictions on the complete and utter right of homesteading are in large part responsible for the problems of pollution and the low quality of television). The individual must be free to receive any and all voluntarily offered gifts; forbidding inheritance (of rightfully owned property) would be a clear violation here, for inheritance is but a special kind of gift--the kind that is given at death.

Most importantly for our purposes, private property rights of ownership imply that the individual shall be free to arrange trades with other individuals on any mutually agreeable terms. Rent controls and minimum wage laws are clear infringements with this right, for they restrict the terms upon which landlord and tenants, and employers and employees may deal with one another (in the next two issues I shall argue that rent controls are in large part responsible for the NYC housing crisis and that minimum wage laws are the cause of high unemployment rates of disadvantaged minority groups).

The second corollary that follows from the free market/private property system is that property obtained thru violence is illegitimate and must be, at the very least, returned to the rightful owner (there may be additional sanctions and punishments applied to the thief, but this need not concern us here). The implications of this widely held and widely acclaimed view are, paradoxically, astounding. What would such 'defenders' of the free market/private property system as Nixon, Agnew, Reagan and Goldwater say were they to realize that the draft is a violation of private property rights? For the draft compels labor services on a decidedly non-mutually agreeable basis, and such compulsory labor services are an interference with one's most important property right: the right of ownership over one's own person. But for the fact that it is the government that is carrying on the theft, few people would deny the proper title to the draft: kidnapping.

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THE FREE MARKET continued

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The distinction between legitimate and illegitimate property is of the utmost importance. For all too many people, the concept of property conjures up the picture of Mafia limosenes, vast comprador land holdings in South America and mun-

itions manufacturers. All of these are cases of illegitimate property titles. Property obtained through force and without consent (incidentally, the purchase of Manhattan island from the indians for \$24 worth of beads and trinkets is one of the few cases of legitimate transfers of property titles to the white man. In this case the indians voluntarily agreed to the terms of trade!).

[Prof. Block will continue his development of the free market in future issues]

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BOMBS AWAY!

John Brotschol

In recent months, the radical new left has engaged in a campaign against industries and banks which have actively supported the United States government in its wholesale murder of the Vietnamese people. These bombings (always preceeded by a warning telephone call) have so shaken the establishment that liberal and conservative hacks such as Lindsay and Reagan are uniting in calling for more repression with stricter laws on the sale of dynamite and other explosives. Obviously, there can be disagreement among the rulers on how best to rob and murder us, but when the people begin to react and attempt to break their chains, the instinct of self-preservation overcomes all the pigs and the axe falls on the rebels in order to "protect" our freedom. With a few more laws, the chances are good that we'll be able to beat Orwell's timetable to the total state.

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WAR AND THE STATE

Bob Behrens

Historically, war has been one of the greatest techniques ever employed by governments for the purpose of subjugating their own populaces. There have seldom been times in history when wars have not been in progress. There have seldom been wars in which the power of the victorious government has not been increased.

Despite the teachings of socialists and various other social and economic regimentationalists, war is not a result of the free market, but a symptom of increased government control.

One of the most peaceful periods of history was the late 19th Century. I doubt that it was just a coincidence that the most progressive and influential governments of the time had adopted nearly free economic systems. As those governments began instituting central banking, an international depression set in, and the economic policies of those countries became more and more the policies of the regimented state. As the regimentation increased, there was a revival of Nationalism. Needless to say, there were more wars. (continued on page 4)

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Kathy Boudin, weatherwoman, reporting with 'distaste' on young radicals in Russia (NY Times): "Their solution is a free-market economy in which money translates people's wishes..."

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Libertarians and anarchists have joined together to work within the Movement under the "radical libertarian alliance" (Box 2104 Grand Central Station, New York City 10017). The rla slogan is: War is murder; taxation is theft; conscription is slavery; and, government is CHAOS.

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Many of the most hated institutions of our own country (the draft, the "progressively" graduating income tax and the ever-increasing bureaucracy) are a direct result of Franklin Roosevelt's most prized possession, World War II.


The never-ending war in Vietnam is bearing its own bitter fruit. The bureaucracy, with special emphasis on the Defense Department, has never been bigger. Secretary of the Treasury Kennedy is talking in terms of wage and price controls. The draft has become more inclusive. The national debt has never been higher.

It is becoming increasingly harder to believe that the United States government does not want to increase its control over the lives of individuals. In 1967, the Joint Chiefs of Staff released a statement which said that winning the war would be a simple task. Others have asserted that withdrawal would be just as easy. Faced with both alternatives, the Johnson-Nixon administration has chosen to stay in Vietnam and hold the status-quo: ever-increasing government control.

"Whatever the State has its hand in, however well meaning it might be, it automatically contaminates. Good causes like welfare suffer the same fate as bad causes, once the government takes over. To liberate Social Welfare from State control must be our aim; if only because the general public rightly regard stealing off the State as being like stealing from a thief..." North West Workers in the British anarchist weekly FREEDOM. February 28, 1970.

David Dellinger to the notorious hanging-judge Julie Hoffman, before the "judge" punished him for contempt of a contemptable court: "You want us to be like good Germans supporting the evils of our decade and...we refused to be good Germans and came to Chicago and demonstrated...now you want us to be like good Jews, going quietly and politely...while you and this Court suppress freedom and truth..."

"governments are necessarily only secret bands of robbers, tyrants, and murderers..." Lysander Spooner, No Treason #6, 1870.



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